

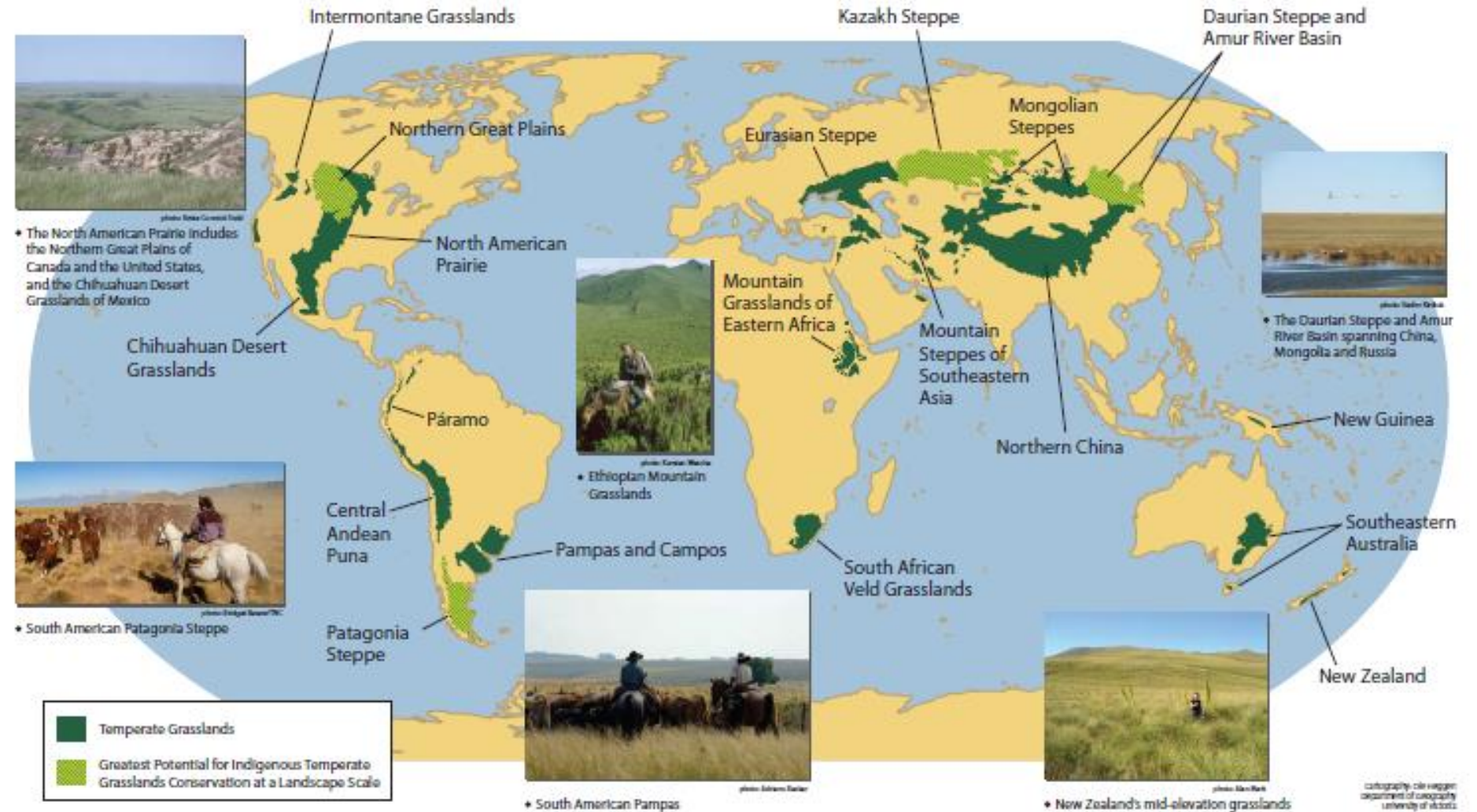
Brian Martin

MT Grasslands  
Conservation  
Director

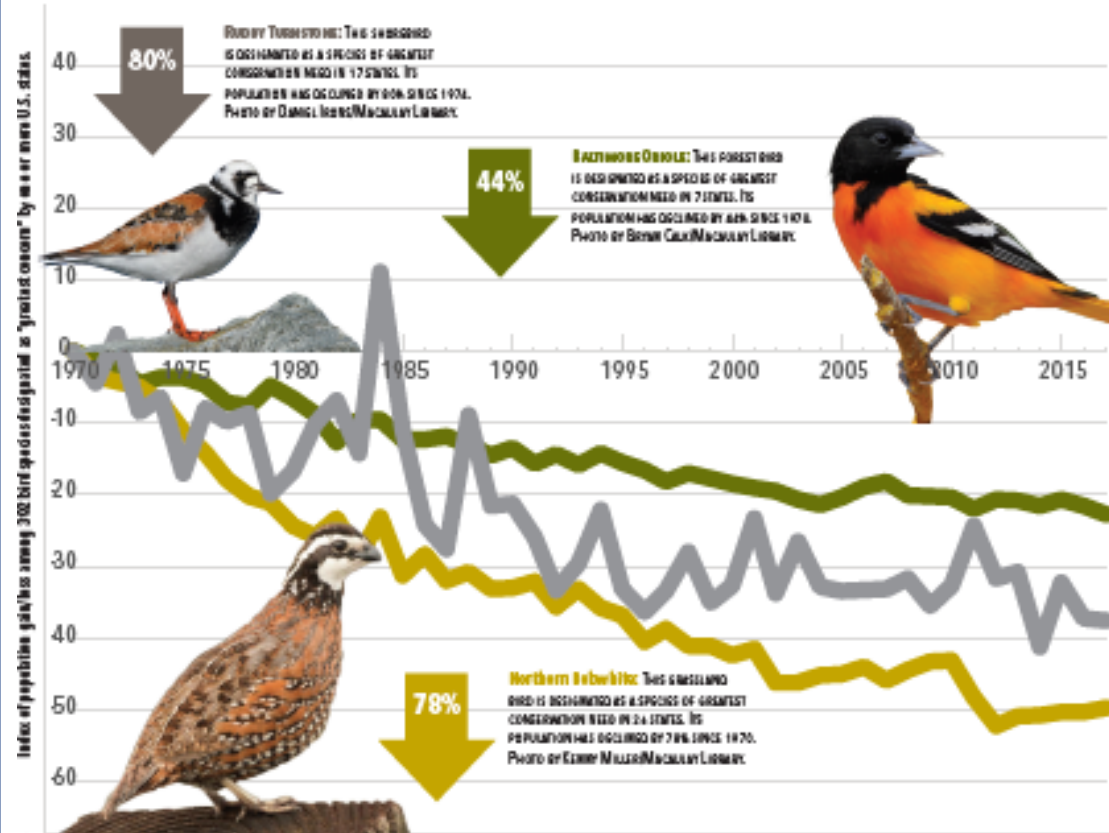




# The World's Temperate Grasslands Conservation Priorities



## AMERICA'S BIRDS ARE IN STEEP DECLINE



### Forest Birds

22% decrease since 1970

**Forest birds** have experienced consistent declines, with big losses among beloved species such as Wood Thrush and Baltimore Oriole. Altogether, forest bird populations have lost 1.2 billion birds since 1970.

### Shorebirds

37% decrease since 1974

**Shorebirds** include many migratory species such as Ruddy Turnstone and Semipalmated Sandpiper that are declining fast, with critically low populations that may soon trigger Endangered Species Act listings.

### Grassland Birds

53% decrease since 1970

**Grassland birds** have suffered the steepest losses, with a population decline of 700 million birds. Some of the biggest declines are among birds beloved by birdwatchers and hunters alike, such as Northern Bobwhite.

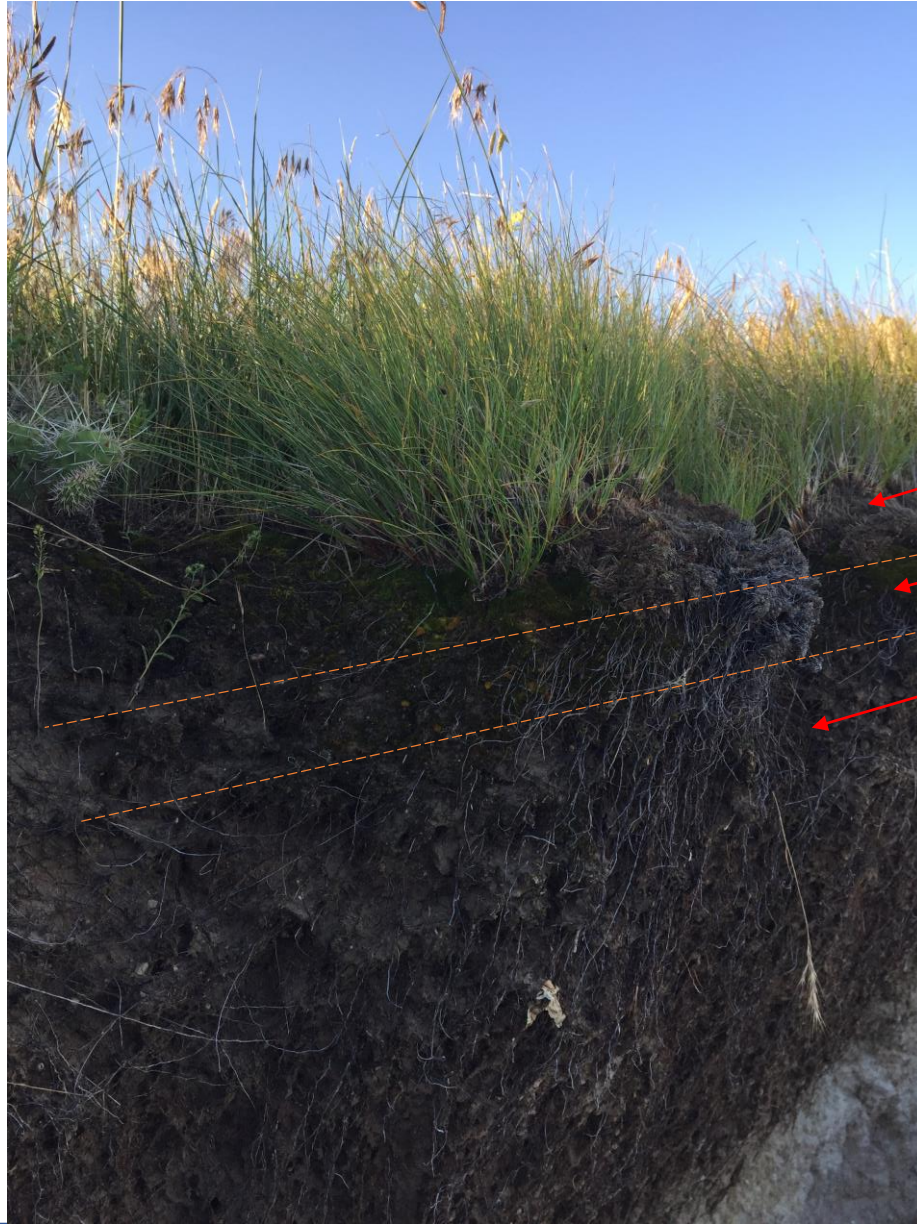
*The State of the Birds 2019*





*Andrew Jakes*





(a) An example of the distribution of carbon (C) stocks in the semiarid, shortgrass steppe ecosystem to 1 m depth, modified from Burke et al. (1997). Values are in kilograms per hectare; values in parentheses are turnover times of component pools. (b) Major factors that affect soil C.

(a)

Aboveground: 450 (1 to 2 y)

Belowground: 6,800 (7 y)

Active: 500 to 1,000 (<1 to 2 y)

Slow: 7,000 (50 y)

Recalcitrant: 44,000 (200 to 1,000 y)

Plants



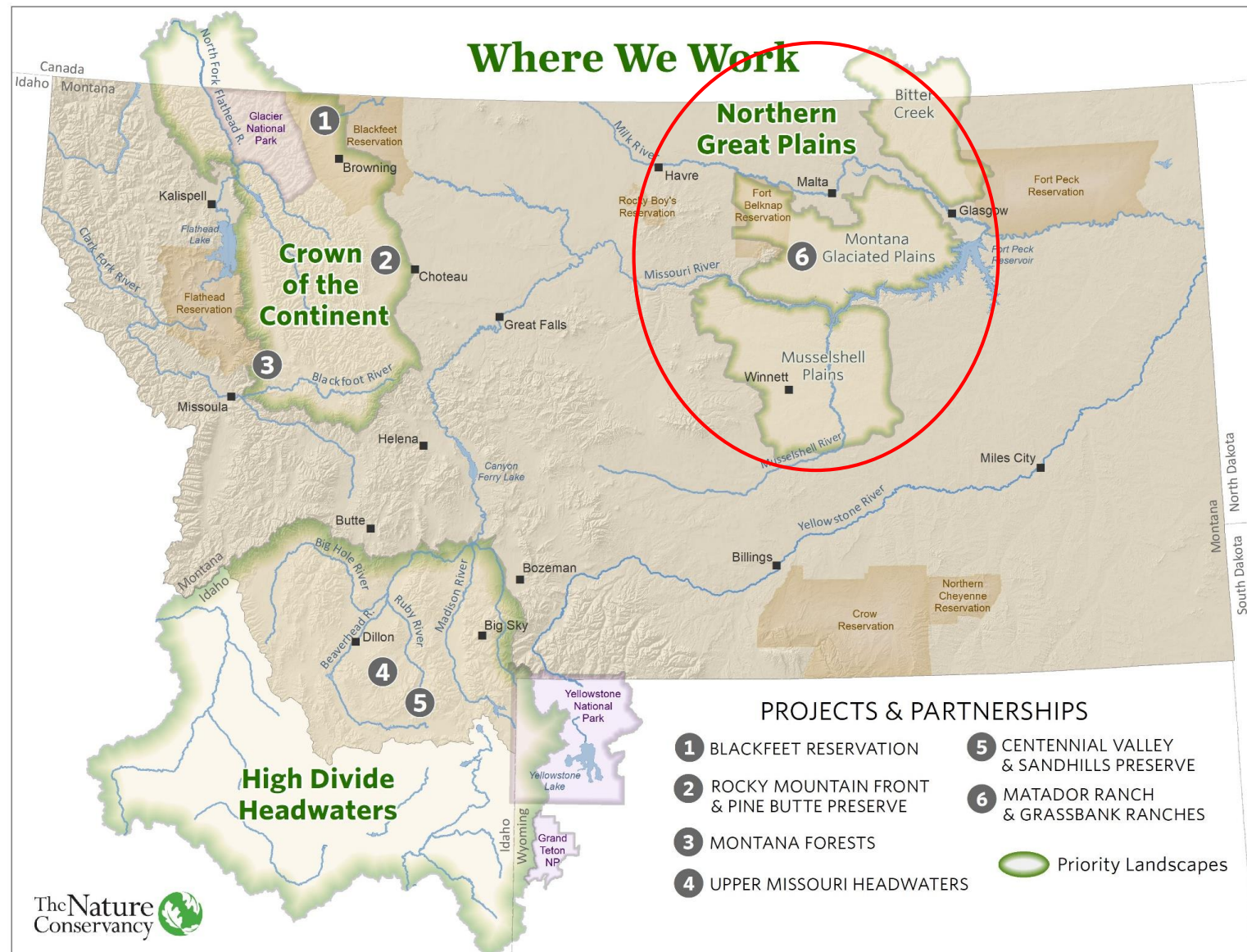
Soils



(b)

From: Sanderson et al. 2020

## Where We Work









# KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR WORK:

Engage and impact ranch operations at-scale to benefit people and nature

Protect at-risk lands and waters

Innovate through cutting edge science

Build partnerships that advance conservation at-scale and respect people and livelihoods





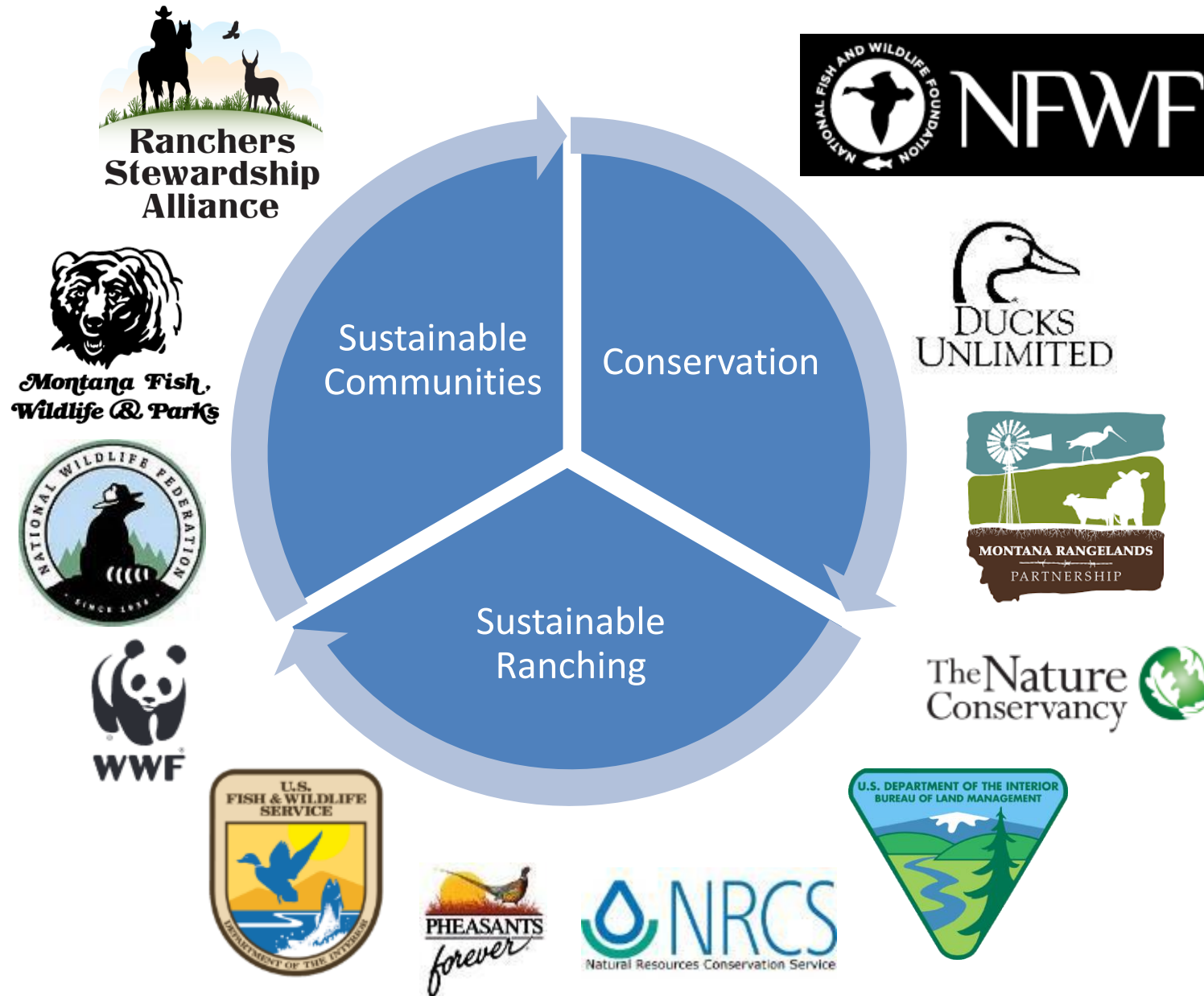
AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY  
ENHANCEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY



Ranching, Conservation, Communities  
—a winning team!



# RSA Conservation Committee





## MATADOR RANCH AND GRASSBANK

2020

20 Ranches

~365,000 ac.

12,000+

AUMS:

1,000

Cow/calf +

1,100

yearlings







*Madylon Cornwell*





### PROJECT SUMMARY:

- TNC Buys 4,339 Acres east of Matador;
- Sell an easement to USFWS;
- Sell entire property in 3 parcels to neighbors;
- Neighbors sell easements on portions of their ranches to finance purchases;
- Families enhance their ranches (grass and operations);
- 13,000 acres of grasslands conserved.